

# Packaging and Shipping Guidelines

It is the responsibility of the facility to ensure proper packaging and shipping of all potentially infectious and biological substances. Listed below are some general guidelines and links to websites that will provide more detailed information.

## Category A

“Infectious Substance Affecting Humans UN2814”

Category A: “An infectious substance in a form capable of causing permanent disability or life-threatening or fatal disease in otherwise healthy humans or animals when exposure occurs by release outside of its protective packaging, resulting in physical contact with humans or animals” (i.e., high infective dose possible if exposure occurs)

## Category B

Biological Substance UN 3373”

Category B: “An infectious substance NOT in a form generally capable of causing permanent disability or life-threatening or fatal disease in otherwise healthy humans or animals when exposure to it occurs. This includes Category B infectious substances transported for diagnostic or investigational purposes.”

## Non-Infectious Substances

### Exempt Human Specimens

Exempt Human Specimen label indicates there is no infectious substance in the package.

Examples of Exempt human specimens include fecal occult blood and dried blood spots.

Professional judgment must be used to determine transport by Category B or Exempt status.

For more information please visit the following sites:

[http://www.who.int/csr/resources/publications/biosafety/WHO\\_CDS\\_EPR\\_2007\\_2cc.pdf](http://www.who.int/csr/resources/publications/biosafety/WHO_CDS_EPR_2007_2cc.pdf)

[http://www.iata.org/whatwedo/cargo/dangerous\\_goods/](http://www.iata.org/whatwedo/cargo/dangerous_goods/)

# SPECIMEN PACKAGING INSTRUCTIONS

Example of **acceptable packaging** of specimens for  
Montana Public Health Laboratory



- A. Only one type of requisition and one associated specimen per bag.

***ALWAYS** place requisition in outer pouch of transport bag.  
**NEVER** place requisition inside bag with specimen.*

Examples of **unacceptable packaging** of specimens for  
Montana Public Health Laboratory



B.



C.



D.



E.

- B. More than one patient and more than one type of requisition per bag.
- C. Single patient with multiple types of requisitions and specimens per bag.
- D. Specimen rolled inside requisition and fastened with an elastic band.
- E. Patient demographic label, tape or staples used to attach specimen to requisition and not in biohazard bag.